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March 26, 1959

Mrs. Clover T. Dulles

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Dear Mrs. Dulles:

The enclosed article presents a bold idea which may facilitate world peace, not just for today, but for all time. The idea is unusual enough so that it would not be likely to get past Mr. Dulles' office staff. For this reason, I am submitting it to you, his wife and most trusted adviser.

I respectfully urge you to read the article and to bring it to your husband's attention if it has possible merit.

Very truly yours,

*Neal F. Page*

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An eventual showdown is inevitable; it is to our advantage to have it now.

The longer we wait, the stronger the communists will become. More than a third of the world's people are now slaves to communism. As you read this, the communists are consolidating their present gains and preparing for future ones. The communist tyrants are driving their people unmercifully in order to build up their military machine and their industrial potential. While the communists move boldly ahead, we succumb to compromise and co-existence. Nations that formerly respected us are concluding that we have "gone soft", and we are losing their support.

There is no doubt about the certainty of a showdown. The communists are determined to conquer the world. They consider FREEDOM a disease that must be completely wiped out, lest their people become re-infected with this idea that is so incompatible with communism. Russia has not built up the world's largest army, the largest submarine fleet and the other elements of her enormous military machine merely to keep her people busy. Actually, the people are kept in poverty just to pay for this machine. When the communists think that they have the strength to conquer us, they will put it into action. We can hold them off by always building a substantially stronger military machine; but in the process we will spend ourselves into bankruptcy. The communists would then have our defeat assured before they even fired a shot. Another choice would be to quit this ridiculous arms race, whereupon they would soon wipe us out. The only course that will save our freedom (and that of the other freedom loving people of the world) is to have a showdown now.

By showing that we are ready and willing to go to war, we may achieve REAL peace. By risking war, we can put an end to this "cold war" and continual threat of hot war. In this day of enormously complex weapons that take such a long time to produce and such a short time to deliver, reasonable men must regard an "iron curtain" policy as an act of war. Behind an "iron curtain" a potential aggressor can be making, in secret, the time consuming preparations for a surprise attack. The United States should declare that a "black curtain" policy, by any country, is henceforth considered to be an act of war. We should notify each violator that after a 30 day grace period, the continuance of such a policy will be considered to be an act of war against the United States, and that we may retaliate at our convenience, without further formal declaration.

Why does the elimination of an "iron curtain" policy achieve real peace? "Iron curtain" policy is used here to mean restrictions on the flow of travelers, emigrants, and ideas into or out of a country. If we could freely travel to all parts of a country, freely talk to or correspond with anyone, and freely circulate our ideas and reports to everyone, we would not need to fear war with that country.

What if the communists stall, neither complying or attacking? This is their most probable strategy; it has always worked so well before. We must have the courage to carry out our ultimatum. Every nation will probably protest our attack; but no free nation will side with the communists. We will have to launch it alone, later accepting as much help as the other free nations can give in the time available. Every freedom loving person in the world will appreciate that we had a distasteful job to do and the courage to carry it out; they will pray for our success. We will start with the advantage of surprise. With encouragement, the enslaved people will support us. We will win. When the communist rule is broken, we should lend a hand to the long suffering Russian people.

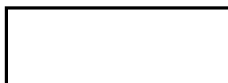
Isn't this a too drastic course of action, frightfully costly in human life? The Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War were equally drastic in their time. The founders of this country took great risks and paid a great price that we might gain freedom. We have been negligent enough to allow our freedom to be placed in great jeopardy. A huge installment of courage and sacrifice is due now if we are to keep our freedom.

Would our action be morally defensible? Yes, if it is moral to apprehend criminals. The communist bosses are criminals because they have killed millions of innocent people and reduced others to a life of slavery. In breaking the communist tyranny, we may kill many innocent Russians. We will be in a similar position to the commander of an injured submarine who must decide to close a bulkhead door, trapping and killing part of his men, but thereby saving the others from certain death. Our ultimatum would be no worse than the ultimatum faced daily by all of us, "eat or die". If we can eat, the ultimatum is no problem at all. The communists can very readily abandon the "iron curtain" policy. If the communists refuse, our attack will actually be a defensive act.

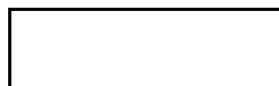
Will American public opinion support such a move? There will be loud and well organized opposition from communists, fellow travelers, and from good citizens whose thinking has been colored by left-wing teachings. The communists have been working for years to gain positions of influence (as teachers, ministers, newsmen etc.) from which they can undermine the foundations of our freedom. Probably many have attained these positions by now. It would be naive to assume that their subtle but persistent propaganda has not had some effect. Communists have often wielded public opinion or mob demonstrations to coerce free governments. We can only hope that our leaders will be guided by patriotic advisers rather than by agitator-led public opinion.

Doesn't risk atomic war? Left-wing writers and commentators have promoted the idea that atomic war means certain death. If Americans become paralyzed with the

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This letter was received  
by Mrs. Dulles and forwarded  
here for attention.



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13 Apr 59

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